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*Smallpox in Nashville, Tenn.—Vaccination compulsory.*NASHVILLE, TENN., *February —, 1900.*

SIR: As per request in your letter of 3d instant, I supply the following: In Waller's Digest of the Laws of Nashville, section 196, these words occur: "The board of health is fully empowered to establish and enforce the observance by inhabitants of, and visitors to, the city of such sanitary regulations as the board deems best calculated to guard against epidemics, infectious, contagious, or malignant diseases, and prevent or check their extension. And the proper officers of the city are not only authorized, but required, to act promptly in enforcing a strict observance of the sanitary regulations as provided by this ordinance;" and in section 200 these words are to be found: "All persons are required to comply with * * * the precepts, regulations, and requirements of the board of health, * * * and whoever shall fail, neglect, or refuse so to do, shall be fined not less than five nor more fifty dollars."

Several cases of smallpox having occurred in the city in the person of those coming into the city from the middle and western sections of the State and the States south and west of us, where smallpox has existed for some time past, the board, considering the situation, deemed the danger to our community sufficient to warrant a general vaccination and revaccination of our people. So on January 5, 1900, the following order was made and steps immediately taken to carry the same into practical effect. (See order, a copy of which is inclosed.) The city was subdivided into districts, and 30 vaccinators (house-to-house) were placed in active work. Up to date, about 40,000 have been vaccinated, and still the work is being actively pushed. In January we had 28 cases of smallpox, and up to date in February 6 cases. Accept thanks for pamphlets sent.

Respectfully,

J. D. PLUNKET.

[Inclosure.]

(1) That every person residing within the corporate limits of the city of Nashville, shall be vaccinated; Provided, however, that this regulation shall not be compulsory on anyone 70 years of age and over; women more than five months advanced in pregnancy, and individuals who, in the opinion of the vaccinating physicians, are too ill to submit to the procedure.

(2) All parties desiring to be vaccinated by any other reputable physician than the one employed by the city, may do so before the arrival of the city's physician, but in all such instances the certificate of said family physician showing that such person has been vaccinated since December 1, 1899, must be produced and exhibited when the city's physician calls to vaccinate any family. Under no circumstance will a verbal explanation be permitted, and all parties who have been vaccinated prior to this order, and subsequent to December 1, 1899, and all parties who may hereafter be vaccinated, are urged to procure and have in their possession said certificate so that no complication may arise.

No certificate of vaccination prior to December 1, 1899, will be accepted. (3) A failure on the part of any person to submit to vaccination shall subject such person to arrest and fine before the judge of the city court of from \$5 to \$50, and the physicians to be appointed to act as public vaccinators are hereby instructed to report at once to the chief of police any failure on the part of anyone to submit to vaccination, and the chief will cause immediate arrest for such violation.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex., February 4, 1900.—I have the honor to report the following summary of work for the week ended February 3, 1900:

Inspection of Mexican Central and Sierra Madre Railway passengers, 168; inspection of passengers, international bridge, including persons returning from bullfight, 359; inspection of immigrants, 31; disinfection

tion of baggage and household goods, bedding, etc., 21; disinfection of soiled linen imported to be laundered at El Paso, 331 pieces; vaccination of immigrant children and other destitutes, 10.

Beg leave to state there is a new case of smallpox at hospital, in El Paso, Tex.

Respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Laredo, Tex., February 3, 1900.—On the through Mexican passenger train of January 31, 1900, I found 4 cases of smallpox in various stages. They were an American family that boarded the train at the City of Mexico. There were 8 persons in the coach when it reached the frontier. I ordered the entire train back to Mexico, and informed the Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, health authorities. The city health officer of San Antonio, Tex., was on the train in a through Mexican Pullman and he is very reliable and believes in quarantine and disinfection, and on account of the travel from Mexico via Laredo, passing through San Antonio he kept watch on all persons exposed to the infection on the train, and was of good service in sorting the exposed, the possibly exposed, and those not exposed to contagion.

The Monterey Pullman passengers could not have been exposed and were allowed entry except their baggage in the baggage car.

The through Mexican Pullman passengers, conductor, and porter were detained and their baggage and wearing apparel disinfected by steam or formaldehyd. Also all the mattresses, bedding, etc., on the through Pullman were disinfected by steam. Some of the passengers were immune, the others were examined and found to have recent successful vaccinations, but were revaccinated and allowed to proceed the following day. Two second-class passengers were treated in the same manner as the third-class. They had only been exposed through the train conductor, and had not been on an infected first-class coach. The physician on board certified to this as well as the conductor, and they all came from Monterey (that is, the second and third class passengers), and the conductor had kept the first-class coach locked after leaving Saltillo on the advice of the city health officer of San Antonio above mentioned. All exterior of baggage in the baggage car was washed with solution of 1-500 of bichloride of mercury and the car afterwards disinfected with the baggage in situ. The infected coach, with 8 passengers, including patients and their baggage, was taken back into Mexico about 4 miles and placed on a siding where the Mexican authorities will keep them under guard and the railroad company furnish board, etc. The passenger conductor and brakeman were immunes, but their wearing apparel was disinfected.

The engineer and fireman had not been exposed and were allowed entry. In fact, all who were directly exposed were denied entry, and those that had been indirectly exposed through the conductor entering second and third class coaches, and through Pullman coaches were revaccinated, and wearing apparel and hand baggage thoroughly disinfected by steam or formaldehyd.

I am positive that all the foci that reached the frontier are now under guard 4 miles from here in Mexico.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.